

BDCP Preliminary Biological Goals

1. Contribute to the recovery/conservation of at-risk native species in the Delta. Primary emphasis will be placed on covered species included in the BDCP.
2. Contribute to the rehabilitation of natural ecological processes to support aquatic and adjacent riparian and floodplain natural communities to favor the covered species of those communities.
3. Protect and restore functional habitat types for ecological values. Primary emphasis will be placed on habitats that support covered species included in the BDCP.
4. Reduce the risk of establishing additional non-native invasive species and reduce the negative ecological impacts of currently established species.
5. Improve or maintain water and sediment quality conditions to support healthy and diverse ecosystems. Primary emphasis will be placed on conditions that support covered species included in the BDCP.

The overriding consideration in developing the conservation strategy is whether or not these objectives can be achieved through the maintenance and operations of the existing system of infrastructure, or re-evaluating to look at alternative approaches that may allow natural physical and biological processes to be re-established. The main impediment to re-establishment of natural physical and biological processes is the use of the system as part of the water conveyance system. Such alternatives would have to provide patterns of flow through the tributaries and into and out of the Bay-Delta that resemble historical patterns and allow natural physical processes to operate. Protection and restoration of functional habitat is needed to re-establish the biological productivity of the system in conjunction with those physical processes.